

# THE SOCIAL CREDITER

## FOR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC REALISM

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### Indictment for Treason

A business man for over thirteen years resident in the Middle East and not during that time in contact with us has written:—

During the War of 1939-1945 it seemed obvious that action was taken that could only lead to a prolonging of the war. I remember the shock I had to discover that troops had been sent to Greece when they were needed to clear the Axis troops out of North Africa. How we in the Middle East Supply Centre (the English) were furious at the constant requests from London to help Jewish industry in Palestine "which was certain to be of great value to the Allied War effort" but which, in fact, appeared to us, the officers responsible, to want only the raw materials to make luxury articles. How surprised we were, after setting up the Balkan Supply Organisation, which was to have been centred on Cairo, that it would no longer be required—the Allies having decided to fight their way up the whole length of the Italian peninsula instead of co-operating with the Yugoslav army which was waiting for us to land.

Since then it has been made clear that the whole policy of mass bombing was in effect a wicked waste of energy and productive capacity on the part of the Anglo-Americans which had a two-fold result, firstly to bring about a destruction of the art and industry of Europe and secondly to make it appear that the Russians had made a far greater proportionate contribution to the defeat of the Axis than in fact was the case. In weighing up the real value of the Russian contribution one must also take into consideration the enormous amount of supplies that were sent *via* Archangel, Vladivostock and Persia, plus the energy consumed in getting these supplies to their destination, plus the effort deployed by the Germans in attempting to prevent them arriving. And then the Russian army had the further advantage of having Hitler at the head of their opponents' forces for a good deal of the time, which would not happen in a war against the British.

To make it possible for the third World War to go on for a "decent length of time" it has been necessary to demobilise all Anglo-American war potential, exhaust the British by maintaining controls and insisting on the development of her over-seas possessions, push the British as far away from the frontiers of Russia, as possible by expelling the British from India, China, Persia and if possible, from the whole of the Middle East, prevent the British from developing potential enemies in Turkey and Greece and, of course, give the Russians certain aero-engines like the Nene to copy and as much chance of picking-up in the Atomic Bomb race as could be arranged by transferring the main Anglo-American development work to the U.S.A. And when the Russians did strike, at the end of the longest and most difficult line of communications in the world, it was even necessary to forbid the Allies to hit them too hard.

The importance of Abadan in the 1939-1945 war was immense for both British and Russians—all the allied air

effort in the Middle East depended on Abadan. Although orders were that supplies for the Middle East civilian population were to be reduced to the absolute minimum, this was never made to apply to Abadan which was given *carte blanche* to order what it wanted, to maintain production at all costs. Having got the British out of Kashmir and removed a potential threat to their industrial plants in the area south of Lake Balkash they were able, by closing down Abadan, to hamstring not only all potential airtreat from the Middle East, at least for some time, but also to handicap seriously many civilian industries in Pakistan and India dependent on Abadan. It was logical to follow this up with an attempt to close the Suez Canal. What a shock the British have had is indicated by the way troops have been pouring into a country which could be beaten militarily by half the number present when the trouble started. Perhaps the troops are to defend the young state of Israel, because it is certain that it would not take much to switch from anti-British to anti-Israel so far as the real sentiments of the Egyptian Army are concerned. At any rate, it would seem that the present state of affairs required a British Army, Navy and Airforce in Istanbul rather than in the Suez Canal Zone. That is how British statesmen settled the dispute between Russia and Turkey in the 1870's if I am not mistaken, and I have little doubt that Nelson would have had a fleet not far from Odessa or Sevastapol, *before war was declared*, just as he did with the Danes.

The Russians have now got all that they ever hoped to have, except India. But the "line of the Hindu Kush" is no longer defended by the British so the going should be easy. Unless Churchill brings back Alexander in time from Canada to organise the British it may well be that the Russians will strike in a direction to give them that warm-water seaport that they have always wanted.

The Arabs really like the British but I fear they are as sadly misled as we are.

### Some Considerations on Lord Canute

"He spake as one having authority and not as the scribes."

The scribes could only quote scripture. They were not apparently appreciated as interpreters. The scribes were given power and maintained their position through the sanctions of government. Government is essentially powerful. Government can transfer power.

But power is bestowed and tributary.

Authority is the source.

Authority cannot be usurped, for authority is immutable.

Authority is all-dimensional.

Power has only one extent and should be bound. Power can be so far transferred as to get out of bounds. For power may even descend to the blasphemy of aspiring to usurp authority.

## PARLIAMENT

House of Commons: November 22, 1951.

### State Scholarships (Statistics)

Mr. Hurd asked the Minister of Education how many State scholarships were awarded during the years 1947 and 1948; how many of these scholars went at once to their university before military service; how many failed to com-

plete their degree course; how many took their final examinations, but failed to qualify for a degree; and how many have had their scholarship extended because of failure to pass some examination before their final.

Miss Horsbrugh: The following table gives this information for ordinary State scholarships. It does not cover technical State scholarships, many of which are not held at universities, nor scholarships awarded under the special scheme for mature students.

—	Number of State Scholarships awarded	Number taken up in the year of award	Number of scholars who failed to complete the degree course	Number who failed the final degree examination	Number of extensions through failure to pass an examination before the final degree examination
1947 ... ..	750	348	11*	—	—
1948 ... ..	800	366	10†	5	—

†Two died.

\*One died

### Apples and Pears

Sir R. Acland asked the Minister of Agriculture whether he will publish a table showing the domestic production of apples and pears in each of the post-war seasons and in the last three pre-war seasons; and if he will make an estimate of what production and importation are likely to be in the present season.

Sir T. Dugdale: The figures of home production are given below. This year's production (apart from cider apples and perry pears) may provisionally be put at 650,000 tons of apples and 27,000 tons of pears. I cannot at present give any reliable estimate of this season's imports, but up to 1st November, 5,000 tons have been imported.

ESTIMATED PRODUCTION OF APPLES (EXCLUDING CIDER APPLES) AND PEARS (EXCLUDING PERRY PEARS) HARVESTED IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, 1936-37 to 1938-39 and 1946-47 to 1951-52 (PROVISIONAL)

(Thousand Tons)

—	1936-37	1937-38	1938-39	1946-47	1947-48	1948-49	1949-50	1950-51	1951-52 (provisional)
Apples:									
dessert ... ..	*	*	*	*	*	120	144	140	200
cooking ... ..	*	*	*	*	*	264	370	308	450
Total Apples, dessert and cooking ... ..	345	156	86	361	595	384	514	448	650
Pears: dessert and cooking ... ..	28	10	10	24	39	32	40	23	27

\* Separate figures for dessert and cooking apples are not available before 1948-49.

### Food Production (Average Yields)

Mr. Peter Freeman asked the Minister of Agriculture what is the average produce per acre for any variety of cereals or crops for which the information is available; and what is the amount of carcase meat that can be obtained per acre from cattle, sheep and pigs, respectively.

Sir T. Dugdale: The average yields per acre of the main cereals and of potatoes are approximately:

Wheat, 20 cwt.

Barley, 19 cwt.

Oats, 18 cwt.

Potatoes, 7 tons (equivalent in food value to about 32 cwt. of grain).

Yields of beef and mutton (dressed carcase weight) reach 2½-3 cwt. per acre from the finest pasture and fall to about

½ cwt. per acre from typical mountain grazing. Average grassland yields about 1½ cwt. of meat per acre.

About 20 lb. of pig meat is produced from 1 cwt. of meal (grain, milling offals, meat meal, etc.). If an acre yields 20 cwt. of grain, and this is converted into pig meat, the yield of pig meat per acre works out at about 3½ cwt. If seven tons of potatoes are converted into pig meat the yield would be nearly 5½ cwt.

### Brewing and Distilling Industries (Profits)

Mr. J. Hudson asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer what profits have been received by the brewing and distilling industries, respectively, after payment of taxes during the last financial year and during the year 1938-39.

*Mr. Boyd-Carpenter:* After deducting depreciation allowances, Income Tax and Profits Tax (or N.D.C.) the net profits of the brewing industry for the accounting years ending in 1938-39 and 1949-50 were £17 million and £15 million, respectively.

The figures include profits arising from trade ancillary to the main business. Figures for the profits in 1950-51 are not yet available.

I regret I am unable to give information about the profits of the distilling industry.

**Economic Planning Board**

*Lieut.-Colonel Lipton* asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer what changes have been made in the constitution and functions of the Economic Planning Board.

*Sir A. Salter:* None.

**Agricultural Tractor Production**

*Mr. Murray* asked the Minister of Supply if he will state the number of agricultural tractors produced in the years 1936, 1937, 1938 and 1948, 1949, 1950.

*Mr. Low:* The figures asked for are as follow:

Agricultural tractor production		
1936	...	not available
1937	...	17,949
1938	...	10,029
1948	...	117,038
1949	...	90,411
1950	...	120,211

**Power Stations (Construction)**

*Mr. Janner* asked the Minister of Fuel and Power whether it is his intention to allow the work of building power stations to continue in view of the importance of increasing the power load available to industry.

*Mr. Joynson-Hicks:* Yes. It is my right hon. Friend's intention to encourage the building of power stations so far as national resources permit.

**Festival of Britain (Loss)**

*Mr. J. Morrison* asked the Minister of Works what is the total loss on the Festival of Britain, to the nearest convenient date.

*Mr. Eccles:* While it is impossible to arrive at final figures for financial out-turn of the Festival of Britain until the dismantling of the South Bank and other exhibitions has

been completed and outstanding claims on contracts have been settled, I am in a position to give the House a preliminary and provisional appreciation.

The total net expenditure authorised for the Festival of Britain by the previous Government was £9 million, or £8,940,000 after deducting the £60,000 which the Festival Office provided as a net contribution to the cost of the Festival Pleasure Gardens which are now being continued so that their eventual financial results cannot yet be judged. While it is impracticable to be quite definite at this stage, the Festival Office hopes to succeed in keeping within its estimate in spite of steeply rising costs at the time the exhibitions and other events were being prepared and held.

The total gross authorised expenditure of £11,500,000 is divided as follows:

	£
Festival Office ... ..	10,051,350
Ministry of Transport ... ..	709,000
Council of Industrial Design (Board of Trade)	318,000
Arts Council (Treasury) ... ..	400,000
British Film Institute (Treasury) ... ..	15,500
National Museum of Wales (Treasury) ... ..	6,150
	<hr/>
	£11,500,000

Against its gross expenditure of £10,051,350 the total revenue from all sources to be received by the Festival Office is now estimated at about £2,500,000, which compares with estimates before the opening of £2,560,000. This figure does not take account of scientific and artistic exhibits, purchased for the Festival exhibitions at a cost of some £200,000, which it is proposed to ask the House to approve as gifts to appropriate public institutions in the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth. While allowance has been made for the salvage value of buildings, no account has been taken in this estimate of the additional revenue which will be received from the sale of exhibits or other articles used in the exhibitions.

House of Commons: November 26, 1951.

**Stocks**

*Mr. Robson Brown* asked the Minister of Fuel and Power the stocks of coke at coke ovens at gas works and at merchants' depôts on October, 1950, and October, 1951.

*Mr. Geoffrey Lloyd:* Stocks of coke at the end of October, in the years 1950 and 1951, respectively, were as follows: at coke ovens, 253,000 and 82,000 tons; at gas works, 931,000 and 395,000 tons; in merchants' yards, 143,000 and 93,000 tons.

*Mr. Robson Brown:* Having regard to the serious drop in the stock position throughout the country, will the Minister consider expediting his carbonisation programme?

*Mr. Lloyd:* We shall do all we can.

**Yorkshire Electricity Board (Conviction)**

*Sir Waldron Smithers* asked the Minister of Fuel and Power, in view of the criticisms made by the Lord Chief Justice at the Leeds Assizes concerning the inaccuracy of an answer given to a Parliamentary Question, if he will make a statement and say what action he proposes to take.

*Wing Commander Eric Bullus* asked the Minister of  
(Continued on page 7).

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Saturday, January 5, 1952.

### From Week to Week

1952—The Year of Prophecy. We shall see whether the planners, immense as their sanctions are, keep to their timetable any better than British Railways.

Cyril John Radcliffe (Lord Radcliffe) was the barrister chosen to represent the Alberta Government before the Privy Council in the ill-fated appeal against the veto of its legislation—or some of its legislation. He has been rising ever since.

A reader of this review professes to detect a note of irritation in Lord Radcliffe's last lecture delivered over the "B." B.C. In this connection, we recall Major Douglas's suggestion that the more public defenders of the Financial System were themselves quite in the dark concerning the nature and effects of the System they were defending. If Lord Radcliffe is "rattled" by anything which *The Social Crediter* (not 'inadvertently') has said, that only goes to show that he also doesn't understand the System he is defending. He didn't sound "rattled" to us. But we are writing of a time which is very confused. Why, for example, should *The Times Literary Supplement* devote its leading article on December 21 to a cautious pin-prick of the Radcliffian bubble? "Lord Acton did not say," says the leader writer, "that all power corrupts, but that all power tends to corrupt; and it was left to a daring posterity to transform a judicious speculation into a quotable remark." How long is it since the same correction was made in these pages? Ten years? It seems ten years: years anyhow. If all power corrupted, there would, of course, be an end to human hopes. Authority is only *incarnate* in Power. A lawyer is not necessarily a metaphysician, or at all events a good metaphysician. Well—what have you? The answer seems to be the radcliffian lemon.

While we await the less urgent reactions of *The Tablet* (Messrs. Woodruff, Hollis and O'Sullivan), *Blackfriars*, *The Downside Review* and *The Month* (less urgent than our own), we ponder the quiet effect of *The Times* in insisting that while the scientist must make sure of his telescope, "sooner or later he must begin to use it." Listen to this:—

"Instinct and emotion supply a motive force indispensable to reason, but that motive force will be frustrated if reason, instead of applying itself to the questions put to it, proudly insists on keeping its independence. Absolute devotion to truth is the condition of finding it, but absolute absorption in the practice of being honest is a less healthy mental state. The trouble with twentieth-century English-

men is not inability to think that they may be wrong; on the contrary, it is inability to think, induced by the seriousness with which they have treated Cromwell's aphorism."

And what was Cromwell's aphorism?—Lord Radcliffe's: it was all he had, in the end, to say: "Think ye may be wrong." About what? About everything: what did it matter, he had spoken to his brief, and his brief was to confuse Power and Authority?

We notice, but only in passing, that "Rule of law may mean one thing in terms of international law and another thing at home."—The Whig opinion of Lord Salisbury expressed at Liverpool and cited in these pages.

We are not surprised to receive, *via* Vancouver, confirmation of Mr. Baruch's intention that "his friend" the British Prime Minister shall spend "some days" with him shortly.

### Mr. Hoover and Nationalism

"Former President Hoover criticised as 'fuzzy-minded' those who claim that nationalism is an evil—in a speech on December 1 to the Youth Forum conducted by the *Daily Mirror* in New York. (Reported in the *New York Times*, December 2, p. 32.) Mr. Hoover emphasized that eradication of nationalist feelings 'is not the road to the freedom of mankind.' Calling nationalism 'a powerful and progressive force,' Hoover warned that it is the nationalism of the countries behind the Iron Curtain that will 'ultimately redeem them from the Communist tyranny of the Kremlin.' Finally, the former President gave the following reminder: 'It is said that vigilance is the price of liberty. It might be added that the seat of liberty must be kept near enough home to keep your eye on it.'

"We may recall an essay in praise of nationalism in *Human Events* (March 21, 1951) by George Morgenstern entitled 'The Undifferentiated Mass,' in which Morgenstern quoted Hoover who said, 'I am not ashamed of advocating defence of the United States first' and commented 'that Herbert Hoover or any American should have mentioned the necessity of apologising for being a patriot shows how much our national spirit has changed since the day of Washington's Farewell Address . . . Now the act of denying allegiance to one's country is sponsored by the Administration presently constituting the Government of the United States.' (*Human Events*, December 5).

### "E-Day"

"General Eisenhower plans to resign his European post on February 21, and return home to push his candidacy—according to Defence sources which usually have advanced knowledge on such matters.

" . . . However, all this may not come to pass. Checking up with foreign diplomats here, we gather the announcement of these plans would be received with dismay in Europe. There, people are worried by the developing crisis in re-armament, and count on Eisenhower to set it right . . . it requires no great power of prophecy to say that there would be much criticism (in the U.S.) of Eisenhower on the ground that he would be deserting his mission when it needs him most."—(*Human Events*, December 5).

## The Rotting Hill\*

By DRYDEN GILLING SMITH.

Mr. Wyndham Lewis's new book of stories centering on that district of London which his 'Washington friend' has named Rotting Hill (we cannot help noticing this as a characteristically Poundesque fingerprint). He takes a cross-section of characters, rather in the manner that Chaucer used for the prologue to his *Canterbury Tales*, and describes their behaviour and reactions under 'socialist' conditions. He knows as we know and seldom ceases to remind us whenever he mentions the word 'socialism' that neither the 'Conservatives' nor the 'Liberals' have promised escape from the Illfare State. It is however convenient to regard this book as a chronicle of a period, that of the socialist administration, for even if the recent change of government has and will leave the policies pursued untouched, its psychological effect will probably be felt on the social and personal levels—we may observe a different group of people bound by some feeling of *esprit de corps* defending things they would otherwise attack.

Wyndham Lewis explains that no contemporary fiction can have less 'politics' than Rotting Hill. There is in fact less than in Dickens and Shaw and whereas the latter offers us his own propaganda Mr. Lewis depicts a scene in which everyone talks politics, because in the world in which they move the slightest complaint about bad food, shoddy goods or slow and inefficient workmen is liable to stir the embers of disagreement about 'the government.' The majority of spectators have looked at the scene through some blinkers of 'party.' Here such views are merely specimens to be observed as part of the scene, part of the explanation of the mental state which has tolerated and therefore made possible such a regime. Even his own views and opinions he puts in inverted commas and presents himself as a character to be described like the others. Both as a painter and as a writer he has continually attacked the idealism of our time which blunts our perceptions, makes us see a brave new world in the increasing tyranny of 20th century governments. His standards of exactness both in thinking and in objective description are exceptional in the current world of letters.

Although the scene presented is composite and universal he does not make the 'democratic' mistake of confusing the classic universality of character with the average, ordinary or common in man. As with the medieval writer (though Wyndham Lewis is no lover of the medieval) the emphasis is on selection of what is important in the data presented to him rather than in the hunt for novelty (often miscalled originality). It is significant that his selection of the people and things that matter should often coincide with ours and that the character to whom he pays the greatest tribute is a Social Crediter whose writings are a familiar feature of this journal. In commenting he makes the proviso that, though he does not regard the Social Credit solution as valid, the *condition* to which we persistently call attention "appears at least as blood-curdling" to him as it does to us. He writes of Mr. Swabey's unpublished work "Usury and the Church of England" that if some future historian had just completed a massive work, the title of which is to be *Causes for the Eclipse of the Christian Nations of the West*, and then unearthed this history of Usury he might well consign to the dustbin all he had written. "Here we

have been assuming among many other things that to our historian of a distant future none of the Social Credit material of the past forty years is available. . . . It is the subject matter which is of such overwhelming significance, that alone is what would attract the historian, more especially when, as in this case, it is handled with exceptional skill."

The chapter however in which the fight for the independence of the school at Lindsell (the names of the places and characters in the book are fictitious) is depicted comes at the end of the book, and "Matthew Laming, Vicar of Ketwood" like Chaucer's poor parson enables the book to finish on a hopeful note, a book that might otherwise be the occasion of a much deeper depression; for this chapter enables the sheer weight of the enemy's power, emphasised in the rest of the book, to be seen in its proper perspective. "It is amusing to compare the *weight* of the respective parties to this battle. On the one side is the terrible colossus of socialism: on the other this frail, impecunious, *clerc*. It is extraordinary how this small animal, without I expect any serious backing, can defy the omnipotent State—even if it is only as yet omnipotent-in-the-making. But he is possessed of a great deal of will and his entire being hardened into a resistant human particle in the social body by the agency of an economic creed both aggressive and unorthodox. It is, of course, the Christian ethic, as interpreted by this professional of religion, which has produced an unbreakable belief, at once mystical and practical. He *believes*—in as radical a sense as that of physical apprehension—that it is an evil impulse on the part of the government to break up the villages and to turn *all* of England into a factory—to break up the home of the peasant—to work for the destruction of the Family. Two creeds combine to assure him of the malignity of this action.

"Laming is much younger than the other clergyman of whom I have written, much more the modern intellectual." A little further down this page (273) there is a gap in the print of about eight lines. There is no indication as to whether Wyndham Lewis himself, Messrs. Methuen the publisher, or Messrs. Wyman the printers are responsible for the omission.

The "other clergyman" is also a poor parson. Mr. Lewis calls him The Bishop's fool, an Oxford lefty boy of the twenties whose politics enable him to pretend to himself that he is still young in heart. . . . this poor clergyman who forgets he has no money, who yearns for honour—who certainly has dreamt of fame, but who dreams incessantly now of social justice and a new, bright, bossy, fraternal world—a new Jerusalem . . . His verse . . . the song of a rather mechanically cheerful bird, on the highest and frostiest bough in a frost like the last frost of all, celebrating the winter of our discontent as though it were the morning of the world." Ever since Oxford he has lived in the past continuing to potter around with Karl Marx, a mascot of his youth, not so much as an advocate but because he enjoys pushing under people's noses something they detest. But behind this desire to shock the bourgeois there is an authentic issue "that of the priest inheriting a rotted religion from his laodicean fox-hunting ancestors which he would naturally desire to reinvigorate."

Wyndham Lewis makes a surprise visit to Rymer's vicarage and meets him in his village street displaying the colourful heroism of romantically patched clothing. After their lunch (in which mention of food troubles is taboo or lightly brushed aside) there is a long conversation. Rymer

\**Rotting Hill* by Wyndham Lewis. Methuen, 1951.

always tries to avoid a serious argument but Mr. Lewis does his best to provoke him either to abandon some of his romantic conventions or to come out and defend his obscurantist absolute. Lewis the fictional character makes many important points. Attacking the view that Christianity could raise Socialism to its level and that therefore Christianity had a duty to protect it against the wicked world, he says that socialism could be taken over by the worldly, and then who or what was it required protecting? "The worldly are never so dangerous as when they masquerade as idealists . . . Appeals to the conscience seldom fail especially with the English. One takes for granted that a man appealing to one's good feeling, to one's humanity, must surely himself be a good humane man—the majority at least are apt to draw this conclusion . . . the British working class is the reverse of socially ambitious. It has always been the despair of the agitator, a mass as difficult to ignite as a rain-soaked mackintosh. . . . The vast colonial expansion of Great Britain and temporary industrial monopoly enriched and expanded so much the class of bankers, merchants, industrialists, that that class wrested the leadership from the landed society. What was responsible for this revolution was something with an action equivalent to atomic fission, namely money" and "it was purely middle-class money which has caused the artificial elevation of the working class at the expense of the middle-class" but "Fifty, or a hundred million people cannot rule. What would they rule? They can only be told that they are ruling which is another matter and meanwhile of course they go on labouring just the same as before. The people who tell them they are ruling, those people are in fact the rulers. As we see in Russia, the majority must always toil. It is an age in which paper takes the place of bullion, and the verbal of the physical. . . . The classless society has been proved a myth. If class we must have then a trinity of classes is preferable to two classes. The natural class arrangement is to have a middle class involving the perpetual individual emergence. . . . This individual emergence should be facilitated."

. . . "But the idea of a Glorious Working Class World has to be paid for and it costs billions of pounds. The actual workman has to pay for the advertisement of his imaginary self. . . . It is the same with Culture and the Arts. So much money is spent in advertising how artistic and cultivated we are that there is no money left for artists or for real culture."

Rymer from time to time makes stock comments whenever he can find a likely peg on which to hang them. He asks "but what about the parasites before the war" and "I thought utilitarian thinking had been sufficiently discredited. Men are great idealists. That is what you forget. The negative satisfactions of 'peace and plenty' do not appeal to them" and he is answered ". . . war after war: what could be more utterly unutilitarian than that—and the consequent debt that is heaped upon the unprotesting nations. What heroes we are! What idealists! The wars of our time are the means by which men are being pushed towards total servitude."

"Or towards a free world," chimes in Rymer.

"In any event, historians . . . will marvel at the twelve decades in which the 'liberal' ferment was at work in English life. The present socialist government is, then, the most spectacular achievement of a truly idealizing cult—and it will be its last. The moralist politics of Protestant

Christianity was violently anti-authoritarian, in contrast with the Catholic philosophy . . . it has given birth, now, to its opposite, to something tough and authoritarian." Here I am afraid Mr. Lewis has not separated his notions of power and authority. "The natural twentieth century drift must be towards the eventual repudiation of Christianity, or its sentimental puritan hang-over. We see that occurring everywhere . . . the danger is that in its hour of triumph socialism will forget, ignore, or violently discard, the ethics by means of which it was able to gain acceptance and to mount to power. When Christianity vanished, all socialism's angelic credentials, as being so obviously unselfish that the power of Ghenghis Khan might be entrusted to it with absolute safety, would vanish too." He quotes David Low the cartoonist "If any man come to you from the Right or the Left and promise you economic security on condition that you first surrender your personal and political liberty, kick him downstairs. You won't get the security and what is more having surrendered your liberty, you will be in no position to argue about it." Rymer however preferred not to think about the state in such a hard clear light and produced the usual red herring questions such as "What are your politics?" He behaved often as if the objective world were clay to be fashioned—not rock to negotiate. If a solid fact came into collision with him . . . he would be nonplussed. However his side of the story is treated very sympathetically especially in the last episode where he fares rather badly in a brawl with a local farmer (one who naturally objects to the preaching of 'Communism' to his labourers).

The next story brings in a real 'member of the working class' a student with an aggressive attachment for things Russian. The *Unesco* book on Human Rights has just appeared and Mr. Lewis is reading it in a train. In the discussion arising out of this he points out that in antiquity the Romans and the Greeks did not find it necessary to draw up a Bill of Rights of that sort: they cared for their slaves as a matter of course. "Of course it is a new thing to call the care one naturally bestows upon a slave, or upon a horse or a dog, a right!" Again it is the question of whether one can barter political rights for 'economic and social rights' as security is here called. He tests the validity of one passage in the book, that the Soviet will extend its conception of human rights to the political sphere and the West to the social sphere, by putting it as a suggestion to his travelling companion. Of course it ignores the Hegelian basis of materialistic Communism which postulates the existence of the State as an organism, something greater than man and through which the only important part of human life is expressed. The reply is therefore "A Russian would have no use whatever for political rights. Why should he? . . . My body is part of the socialist body, what can *habeas corpus* mean to me? That was invented to protect an individualist against a king. There are no kings and no individuals of that sort in Russia. Your 'hope' my dear sir, of a 'development' as you call it of the Communist philosophy towards individualism, and its corresponding 'rights,' makes me laugh."

The following scene is centred round the epidemic of dry rot which came to the old houses of Rotting Hill, the behaviour of the workmen in demolishing the interiors and Mr. Lewis's reflections. "The English," he says "had a public conscience as big as a house. But its fibre is devoured . . . If you informed them that fifty thousand Finns or

Italians had been massacred—by anybody—it would have as much effect as if you informed it that fifty thousand mackerel had been caught. Take away tomorrow all its sugar, for instance, and all its butcher's meat . . . Nothing would happen except that people would develop complaints for which a sugarless and proteinless diet is responsible.

"This picture is only overpainted if you wish for an underpainting of it. For there is no moderate image of atomic politics, national bankruptcy, murderous taxation, black-market immunity, jobbery, world-inflation, populations drained of hope. But *no picture at all* exists in the case of massive sections of our society. . . . But at all levels the working class is elated, the source of the elation being even more sentimental than economic." A newsagent had told him that he divided his customers into two categories, those that bet and those interested in spiritualism. As for this "liberation" of the working classes, painters exulting in the carelessness with which they have spilt paint on the coats of passers by, electricians playing football in the room overhead where they are supposed to be mending the switches, was not this liberation of a being accustomed to restraint since the days of the theow, laet, esne, or earlier? "So it was a little terrible. Has not most 'liberation' in our hypocrite century proved phoney—to use the proper cheap and ugly word for what is thus exactly described?" Amidst the upset and noise of rot-removal he is trying to read a Trotskyist propaganda record of experiences in Stalinist Russia.

"I put down what I was reading very often to reflect on the inner meanings of this sort of book (if you chopped away enough of the humbug of politics to contact the inner truths); of the material with which power worked, the human mass namely, and the numerous disguises adopted by power—disguises imposed by the sensitivity of the human material, by the dangers involved in handling energies so disproportionately vast compared with the physical insignificance of the 'master mind.'"

(To be continued)

## PARLIAMENT—

(continued from page 3).

Fuel and Power if his attention has been drawn to the comments of the Lord Chief Justice regarding the inaccuracy of certain information given in this House; what inquiries he has made in the matter; and what action he has taken to ensure that information given to this House by his Department is accurate.

*Mr. Geoffrey Lloyd:* I am in the unusual position of replying in respect of a Parliamentary answer given in a previous Parliament by another Minister of a different Government and party.

The answer in question was given on 4th December, 1950. I have carefully examined the records, and I wish to say at once that in my opinion not the slightest question arises of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Derby, South (Mr. Noel-Baker), not having exercised all the usual care in giving information to this House.

The Question was in three parts. First, it asked the amount of the licence granted for the extension of the Yorkshire Electricity Board's Headquarters; secondly, the date of such licence; and thirdly, the amount which had, I quote,

"been actually spent or the value of the work done to date."— [OFFICIAL REPORT, 4th December, 1950; Vol. 482, c. 22.]

The information for the first two parts of the Question was available in his Department and was stated correctly in the reply. The information asked for in the third part of the Question relating to the amount which had "been actually spent or the value of the work done to date" was not available in his Department and had to be obtained from the Yorkshire Electricity Board. My predecessor prefaced his reply to this third part of the Question with the words, "I am informed that." He was of course referring to the information obtained by his Department from the Yorkshire Electricity Board. The information given by the Board to his Department was incorrect and that is why the answer was incorrect.

*Sir W. Smithers:* In view of the fact that a Minister was responsible, does the answer of my right hon. Friend mean that no disciplinary action is going to be taken against a Minister of this House, who insulted this House by giving an answer which was described by the Lord Chief Justice of England as a "downright lie," and will my right hon. Friend refer the whole matter to the Committee of Privileges?

*Mr. Lloyd:* No, Sir. If I may say so, that question does not arise at all. It often happens that information has to be obtained from outside bodies, whether private companies, public companies or the nationalised boards, as the basis of information given in this House, and it is usual in those circumstances for the Minister to use the phrase, "I am informed that." As a matter of fact, I do not think that in general any difficulty arises in relying on this information.

*Mr. F. J. Bellenger:* Will the right hon. Gentleman say explicitly whether the answer given in this House came from the Board itself or was suggested to the Board by an officer of his Department, as seems to be the case in viewing the evidence at the trial?

*Mr. Lloyd:* I think I know to what the right hon. Gentleman is referring. There was a statement made, I think, by some witnesses that they understood the answer had been suggested in London. What happened was that the original information was asked for by the Department. On the later instructions of an assistant secretary, the principal, whose business it was, was instructed to check the answer with the Yorkshire Electricity Board. I think that it was from that that the suggestion arose somewhere during the trial that the answer had been suggested in London.

*Captain Charles Waterhouse:* Is it not a fact that when an hon. Member of this House puts down a Question he must make himself responsible for the facts in his Question, and is it not all the more necessary that a Minister should make sure of the facts in an answer?

*Wing Commander Bullus:* Has disciplinary action been taken against the official who gave the inaccurate information?

*Mr. Lloyd:* Later on I am answering a Question about the Board, and I think that will arise better then.

*Mr. Donnelly:* Is it in order for the hon. Member for Orpington (Sir W. Smithers) to make an accusation against my right hon. Friend the Member for Derby, South (Mr. Noel-Baker).

*Mr. Speaker:* That is not a point of order.

*Mr. Noel-Baker:* It is plain that if blame rests on anybody in respect of this Question it rests fully and wholly

on me. May I say that I am much obliged to the right hon. Gentleman for saying that I took all reasonable care to obtain information which was accurate, and that I believed it to be fully accurate when I transmitted it to the House?

### Nationalised Boards (Fines)

*Wing Commander Bullus* asked the Minister of Fuel and Power if he will introduce legislation to surcharge members in nationalised boards in respect of fines imposed on such boards in a corporate capacity.

*Mr. Geoffrey Lloyd*: As the recent electricity board case has shown, it is possible, under the existing law, to take proceedings against members of boards who have a personal responsibility, and the courts can impose, if they so decide, not only fines but also sentences of imprisonment. As at present advised, therefore, I do not consider further legislation is necessary.

*Wing Commander Bullus*: Would not the Minister agree that it would be fantastic that a highly paid official appointed to watch public expenditure should have his fine paid for him by the public against whom he has offended?

*Mr. Lloyd*: I do not think it would be an accurate description of what took place. The court in this case, having discretion, nevertheless decided to impose, for certain reasons mentioned by the Lord Chief Justice, a fine on the board in its corporate capacity, and decided to impose in one case a fine and in the other case a sentence of imprisonment on individuals, in their individual capacities.

*Mr. R. T. Paget*: Does the position of a director of a nationalised board differ in any way from that of the director of a private company?

*Mr. Lloyd*: That is a legal matter on which I should not like to pronounce at short notice.

*Colonel Alan Gomme-Duncan*: Will my right hon. Friend tell me whether a fine imposed upon a corporate body is actually paid for by the consumer? How does he define a corporate body?

### Tibet (Communist Control)

*Mr. Edward Wakefield* asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs what information he has regarding the extent of Chinese Communist control of Tibet; and whether he will make a statement.

*The Joint Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Mr. Anthony Nutting)*: His Majesty's Government have no representative in Tibet and, therefore, no direct source of information about events in that country. I have, however, seen Press reports which indicate that China is increasingly asserting control over Tibet and I have no reason to doubt that these reports are substantially true.

### Electricity Supplies (Generation Statistics)

*Mr. Lewis* asked the Minister of Fuel and Power how much electricity was produced in each of the six years after the First and Second World Wars, and in the year immediately preceding the outbreak of the last war.

*Mr. Geoffrey Lloyd*: The answer is as follows:

### ELECTRICITY GENERATED BY PUBLIC SUPPLY STATIONS

					Million kWh
1919	...	...	...	...	3,650
					(estimated)
1920	...	...	...	...	4,275
1921	...	...	...	...	3,890
1922	...	...	...	...	4,541
1923	...	...	...	...	5,289
1924 (a)	...	...	...	...	6,022
1938	...	...	...	...	24,372
1946	...	...	...	...	41,253
1947	...	...	...	...	42,580
1948	...	...	...	...	46,493
1949	...	...	...	...	49,061
1950	...	...	...	...	54,965
12 months ended October, 1951	...	...	...	...	59,933

(a) Prior to 1938 the figures refer to financial years.

### Petrol Rationing

*Mr. Lewis* asked the Minister of Fuel and Power if he will re-introduce petrol rationing during the period of the present financial difficulties confronting the country.

*Mr. Geoffrey Lloyd*: As the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster explained on 14th November in another place, the greatest part of the petrol consumed in this country is coming from U.K. refineries. Indeed, before the end of next year the output of petrol is expected to equal consumption.

The shaping of future policy must depend on the economic situation but I am not at present of the opinion that the financial saving from the re-introduction of petrol rationing would warrant either the economic disturbance to the country or the administrative cost involved in setting up the organisation required to operate such a scheme.

### Sir Thomas Beecham's Pyre

"It was through my association with an elderly harp-maker, George Morley, a man of considerable culture with whom I played chess and billiards, that I began to frequent the meetings of the Fabian Society, where lecturers would expound to us the full gospel of the new creed. One evening there was an address on Shelley, and the speaker, while professing great admiration for his genius, deplored that the poet, as the son of a Sussex squire, had been born to the evil enjoyment of unearned increment; for in the kingdom of heaven on earth that was at hand there would be no room for men of such breed. That evening on my return home I reviewed in my mind the many distinguished names in letters (going back no further than Chaucer) who, had they been born after the establishment of this arid social system, would never have been allowed to write at all. Gathering together all the Society's books, pamphlets, and leaflets, I hurled them into the fire; and as I watched the pile burning away merrily I remembered how Voltaire had once said that while a philosopher had the right to investigate everything once, there were some things that only a fool would wish to experience twice."—*A Mingled Chime* (pp. 45-6) by Sir Thomas Beecham.